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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

2 December 1974

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INTELLIGENCE

Lieutenant General Samuel V. Wilson Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Sam:

- (U) Thank you for the Project SAFE Report. I took advantage of your offer and saw the SAFE project demonstration in company with my staff and the program managers of COINS and IDHS.
- (U) We were impressed with the capability that has been achieved with a minimum of extra hardware and software support. I believe that all of us were once more made aware of the commonality of community problems and the need to bring more effective support to our analysts.
- (C) However, there are many problems common to the community that surfaced during our discussions:
- (C) a. Software is most expensive -- it may run

 per system. Software commonality between our systems can achieve large dollar savings.
- (C) b. Programs are so complex that machine language software may be necessary while machine independent software is needed if we are to effect major cost savings.
- (C) c. Is it necessary to standardize on our hardware to effect software commonality or will the next generation of hardware permit use of machine independent languages for software?
- (U) d. There are many similar programs in government and industry in various stages of development and operation. The challenge is to make this work mutually supportive rather than mutually exclusive.
- (U) e. A system to usefully help analysts in a cost effective manner will have to evolve with much interaction between users and generators of software.

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- (C) f. New software provides an opportunity to support USIB activities for intelligence data standards, file standards, etc.
- (C) In view of the above, the importance of providing modern technology to aid the analyst, the wide community interest, and the magnitude of the overall program, it is suggested that the Intelligence R&D Council be utilized to recommend how modern technology might help the analyst and how to best employ our overall community assets and ongoing activities to effect the desired solutions.
- (U) I should be happy to discuss this subject further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

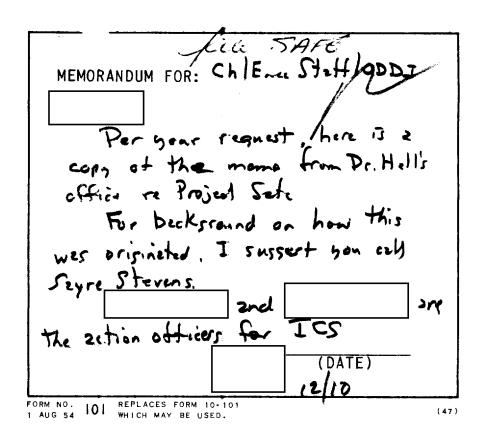
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Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence and Warning Systems)

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